SRI

SIVASUBRAMANIA THIRTHAPATHY

ZEMINDAR OF SINGAMPATTI.

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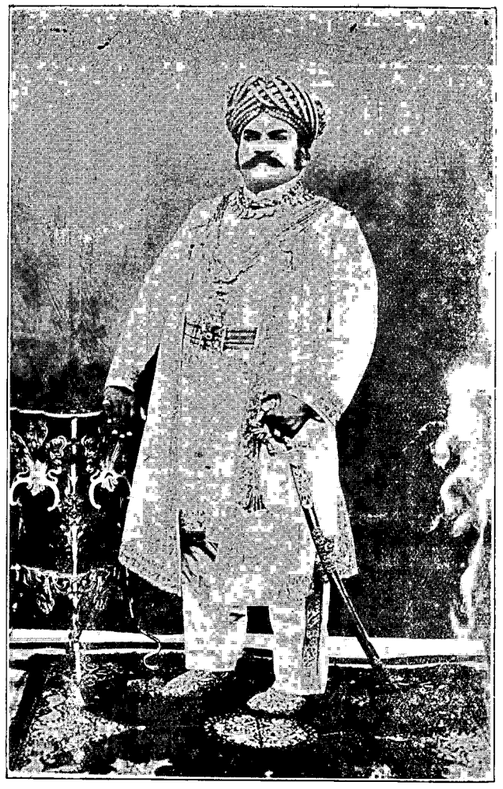


Sri Sivasubramania Thirthapathy,
Zemindar of Singampatti.

SRI SIVASUBRAMANIA THIRTHAPATHY

Zemindar of Singampatti.

(A Sketch)

THE Zemindar of Singampatti, Sri Thennattupuli Nallakutti Sivasubramania Thirthapathy, was born in the year 1874 and was educated under able and experienced Tamil and English scholars. He belongs to an ancient, and martial race of Marava community and his predigree can be traced far back to the 15th century A. D.

He is the 23rd in the line of descent. His father having died suddenly, he ascended the *masnad* on the 31st July, 1893, when he had scarcely passed out of his teens. Though young and inexperienced, he put his heart and soul into the task of administration, won the love and respect of his tenants and greatly developed and

luxuriance. It is now in contemplation to grow tea and other products over an extensive area by a European Company and if the scheme should materialise the forest will not only constitute a fruitful source of revenue to the Zemindar but it will help to solve the problem of unemployment of the working classes of Tinnevelly District. There are two water falls, Manimuthar and Banathirtham falls. The former is more than 250 feet in height and experts are of opinion that it is eminently fit for generating electric current for supplying light to the towns of Tinnevelley and Palamcottah. The latter is a place of pilgrimage where about 20,000 people congregate during Adiamavasa day, who are sumptuously fed by the Zamindar, irrespective of caste, creed or colour.

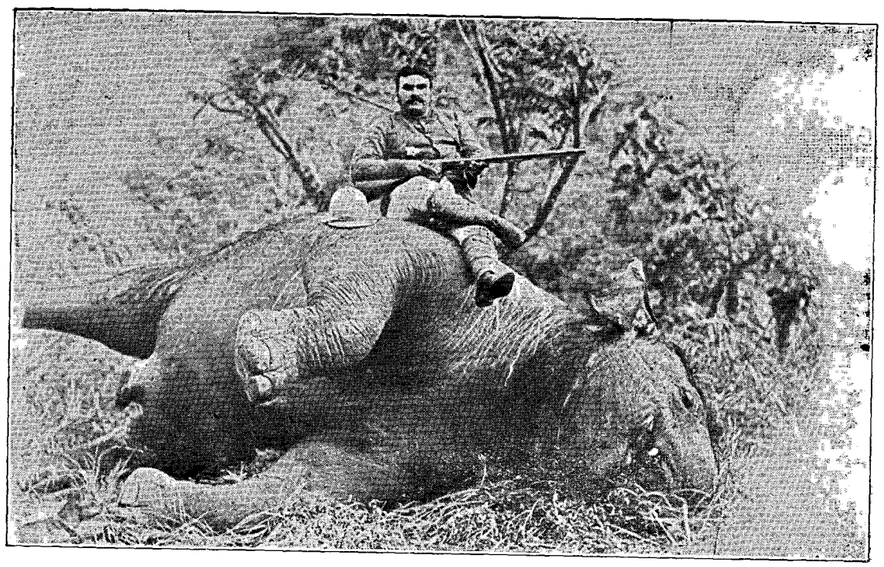
The Zamindar Sahib is an all-round athlete, keen sportsman, and good shot. The numerous trophies adorn-

ing his palace eloquently testify to his success as Shikaree. His forests abound in wild animals of all varieties including elephants and a photo of the elephant which he shot is given here. He is assimilating to the best advantage the brighter qualities of the east and the west. He is a pious and devoted disciple of His Holiness Jagadguru Sankarachariar of Sringari mutt. He is God-fearing and is daily making pujas and offering charities. He is a fine type of a gentleman, and has many European and Indian friends. He is of a sweet and amiable disposition.

From the very commencement of his career his sole ambition has been that he must live a life of usefulness and that he must utilise his resources and influence in the cause of public good. He was an Honorary Magistrate and a Member of the Taluk and District Boards for several years during the pre-reform days and is an

augmented the resources of the Estate by effecting irrigational and traffic improvements.

His Estate is picturesquely situated at the foot of Podigai in Agasthia malai—the well known abode of Sage Agasthia at the south west corner of Ambasamudram Taluk, in the Tinnevelley District, Madras Presidency. It consists of two revenue villages, Kasba Singampatti and Kilmugam, 6700 acres in extent and the forest 110 square miles lying to the west. The population is according to the census of 1921 is 5,000. The revenue of the Samasthanam including Devasom income is about one lakh. The forest is fertile producing all varieties of timber of which teak, kongoo, rosewood and blackwood may be particularly mentioned. Teak grows in abundance over a considerable portion of the area although it does not attain to a great height. In the upper forests, cardamams grow in rank



The Zemindar of Singampatti,
With the Elephant he shot.

influential Member of the Madras Landholders' Association. He was a member of the Committee in the Court of Wards. He has donated a princely sum of Rs. 15,000 for the Thirthapathy High School at Ambasamudram which is associated with his name and which has won the distinction of being the model High School in the Madras Presidency. He is the Life President of the Board of Managers of the School. He has also given another handsome donation of Rs. 20,000 to the Hospital at Ambasamudram which is also known by his name as "Thirthapathy Hospital". His works of public utility are not confined to one particular place or locality. He has sunk tube wells in important centres at Tinnevelley and Palamcottah.

At Nagercoil near Cape Comorin he has provided a few beds for the Salvation Army Hospital; at Madura he has made a donation of Rs. 5,000

to the American Mission Hospital ; at Madras he has made a contribution to the Lady Ampthill Nursing Institute and a donation of Rs. 2,800 to the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital, at Benares to the Hindu University. In his own Zemindary, he has established for the benefit of his tenants and others a free dispensary known by the name of Queen Mary Dispensary and a free Elementary School.

He is a man of sound political views. He was the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Fourteenth Madras Provincial Conference held at Palamcottah in 1906 and again Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Non-Brahmin Conference held at Tinnevelley in the year 1917. He has presided at the Non-Brahmin Conference held at Tanjore in 1918.

He is loyal to the core and his Samasthanam emblem is "Ever Loyal". He discountenances politics of an extreme type and he published

a pamphlet on "Home Rule—a Dream at present" in those stormy days when the Home Rule flags were being hoisted, with a courage of conviction and undettered by adverse criticism, from hostile ranks. He travelled throughout the District and recruited soldiers for the Great War and contributed various sums in the shape of War Loan, War Fund and Hospital Ship fund.

The Government, in recognition of his earlier services, conferred on him in the year 1917 the title of Dewan Bahadur, and it is to be hoped his later services of a worthier and more tangible character will win adequate recognition at the hands of the Government.

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